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ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 232006Z MAR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9230  
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0067

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 000146

SIPDIS

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WHA/CAR FOR MATHEW BUFFINGTON AND LAURA LUFTIG, AF/S STEVE  
HILL, WHA FOR PATRICK DUDDY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/24/2017  
TAGS: [NS](#) [ZI](#) [UNHRC](#) [PHUM](#)  
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE: SURINAMESE MFA NOT FOLLOWING ISSUE

REF: A. SECSTATE 34009  
[1](#)B. 2006 PARAMARIBO 802  
[1](#)C. 2007 PARAMARIBO 133

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: PolOff spoke with three officials at the  
Surinamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs about Zimbabwe (ref  
A), all of whom admitted not following the issue. All  
accepted further information on the issue, and one said that  
Suriname would like to support a UN Human Rights Council  
stance on this issue. This is a dodge, not agreement. END  
SUMMARY

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Out of Sight, Out of Mind  
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[1](#)2. (C) MFA Head of the Americas Division Terence Craig  
(protect), MFA Head of International Organizations Division  
Nalinie Sewpersadsingh (protect), and the substitute for the  
Acting Head of the Asia and Africa Division all told PolOff  
they have not been following the news out of Zimbabwe. They  
seemed unfamiliar with the international implications of the  
issue, and readily accepted an offer of Ref A,s paragraph 7  
background. Sewpersadsingh anticipated the U.S. position by  
saying she felt any action on Zimbabwe should come through  
the Human Rights Council (HRC) at the UN. She said in  
principle Suriname would support a strong response from the  
HRC, and that she would present the idea of urging the HRC to  
take action on this issue to her Permanent Secretary and  
Minister. She asked to be kept informed of HRC developments.

[1](#)3. (C) COMMENT: Usually, Surinamese MFA officials are at  
least aware of issues, and if not they will pretend to be.  
The fact that three of them admitted unfamiliarity with this  
issue shows how far off the radar Zimbabwe is here in  
Suriname. As for Sewpersadsingh,s agreement that action  
should be taken through the HRC, this is a typical dodge for  
Suriname (refs B, C), and should not be taken to mean that  
Suriname will take action to influence the Human Rights  
Council. Rather, Suriname will likely say nothing, repeat  
its "in principle" agreements if asked informally, and  
perhaps sign onto a "consensus" position of CARICOM, the  
NAM, or the UNHRC. Sewpersadsingh,s request to be kept  
informed on the issue is code for "you do it." Then again,  
one never knows how Suriname,s semi-autonomous UN Ambassador  
might react. Ironically, Post often feels it would be far  
more effective for us to skirt the MFA entirely and call  
Suriname's Ambassador in New York directly. END COMMENT

SCHREIBER HUGHES